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GILA COUNTY

Public Works Division

Bark Beetle Disaster

As many of you may know, Resolution No. 03-01-01 was recently adopted by the Gila County Board of Supervisors on January 7, 2003. The Resolution reads as follows: "A RESOLUTION ... DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO THE MORTALITY OF INSECT AND DISEASE INFESTED, DROUGHT IMPACTED, AND FIRE DAMAGED TREES IN THE COUNTY'S SPRUCE-FIR, MIXED CONIFER, PONDEROSA PINE, PINYON-JUNIPER, AND OAK-JUNIPER FORESTS LOCATED ON PRIVATE, STATE, FEDERAL AND TRIBAL LANDS." Some facts about beetles...The beetle's population increases 50-fold every six to eight weeks, each time flying to a new grove of trees within a few miles. One beetle could spawn 600 million more in just five more generations. To make matters worse, the warm weather allowed the reproduction season to double because it lasted 1-2 months longer than usual. Already, the beetles have killed off ponderosa pines over an estimated 508,000 acres in Arizona. This is larger than the area of the state's largest wildfire, the Rodeo-Chediski fire. If the drought continues, the beetles may not stop until all the larger pine trees are dead. Only two events would stop them...an extreme cold snap, like 20 or 30 degrees below zero; or a couple of years of above-normal precipitation. According to forest entomologists, the beetle numbers are so high at this point they fear it's going to get worse. District One Supervisor, Ron Christensen, recently returned from the National Forest Plan meetings, he is staying very involved and is in contact with the Governor's office in an attempt to acquire additional funding, which would help in the clean up efforts.

Sheriff's Office Parking Lot Expansion

Roads Department—Copper Division— has an ongoing culvert project at the Sheriff's Office. They are extending the old culvert by about 120 feet with new one. The project began November 18, 2002 and Brent Cline and his crew of Merry Men are doing a bang up first class job.



This is a large project which

is requiring the help of several other departments in order to complete, including Engineering, Facilities Management, and Globe Shop. When completed, this new expansion will hopefully eliminate current congestion, increase parking, and allow for the Sheriff's vehicle access.



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Administration

Public Works Employee Orientation, that's right, efforts are in the works to provide an orientation in addition to the Personnel Orientation that each new county employee currently receives. Once in place, the prospective "new" Public Works Division employee would have to have completed at least our orientation in order to begin employment. The orientation would include a tour of the facility (s) that they will be working in, an organization chart, review of departmental policies & procedures, including recommended vaccinations, and a copy of the Safety & Loss Control Handbook. The safety handbook covers a wide range of subjects on safety in hopes that it will serve as a valuable teaching tool and motivational tool, creating a safe and healthful work environment for all Public Works employees. At the present time and in light of recent events, Steve Stratton, our Deputy Director, has decided that from hereafter every employee will be required to have their own copy of the Safety & Loss Control handbook on hand for reference at all times. We are pleased with his decision and feel that by instituting a divisional employee orientation as well as providing safety handbooks to everyone will prove extremely beneficial in the future.

Engineering

The Arizona Professional Land Surveyor's Association (APLS) recently held their Surveyor of the Year Awards Ceremony. Gila County's own Rick Bunger was chosen runner-up to Surveyor of the Year. Rick was recognized for his service to APLS and the survey community by individuals in the surveying profession. He was also recognized for his achievements in the land surveying profession and his promotion of land surveying. Rick is currently the Chairman of the Rim County Chapter of APLS and serves as Vice-Chairman on the APLS Board of Directors. Rick will be giving a lecture on the "History of Arizona Surveying" at the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping Conference in Phoenix this March. Congratulations Rick!!!



Solid Waste

The Public Works Division had a float entry in the Annual Downtown Light Parade held in December. This was the fourth straight year they've entered. The float was designed and decorated by Anna Sanchez & Sharon Radanovich. It featured Frosty the Snowman, a sleigh, reindeer, spiral Christmas tree, an elf, and candy canes. Thanks goes to those who helped including Fred Casillas & Scott Marcanti of the Fairgrounds for making the candy canes, Mike Golden for the making the sign for the truck, Pete Ortega for welding the tree, Fred Lavin for his help, Ernie Davis for assembling the snowman and reindeer, Brent Cline for driving the truck at the parade, and Jo Ann Minchew for helping remove and put away all the decorations.



The 4 Amigos project has had a railing added, thanks to Pancho Baca and his right hand man, Randy Burkhalter, and the bank has been shotcreted for stability. Recently

CONSOLIDATED ROADS

completed the Russell Road project which consisted of installing a 20' length of 24" culvert and widening the road to a 30' width for a length of 600'. Now more than one burro at a time can get through there. Higher Education didn't escape our attentions either. Joe Casillas, one of our tried and true workers, spent some time out at Gila Pueblo College with his friendly steeds, J-12 and T-3, cutting and preparing a lot for storage facilities and parking. Meanwhile, the everyday duties are continuing. The Copper Region is still doing vegetation control, patching, shoulder maintenance, screening granite, regular maintenance, hauling this and that and all the other good stuff that our crews manage without a gripe. Timber Region had a "White Christmas." Their road crew has been busy plowing snow and they are hoping there will be plenty more for the rest of winter. The Pine crew is excited to be in their new building. With the old trailer moved out, the Pine yard really looks nice. In closing, Glen and Brad would like to offer some helpful hints: "Did you know you can increase your fuel economy several miles per gallon by keeping the tires properly inflated monthly, and the engine properly serviced and tuned up."



Gary Denton was born in Morenci, Arizona on September 14th. He moved to Globe when he was four years old. When he was seven years old he moved to Central Heights,

Facilities Management

where he lives with his wife Mary of 32 years, daughter Amy, and his father Aubrey. He has a rope horse named Red. In 1965, he moved to Texas, but returned to Globe shortly after. Gary's hobbies include team roping, hunting, and spending time with his family. Gary attended Eastern Arizona College where he earned his AA in Social Science. Gary was also in the Army National Guard where he was honorably discharged. In September 1979, he started his boilermaker apprenticeship, and is a certified boilermaker. From 1974-1998 he worked for Pinto Valley where he specialized in metal fabrication and heavy equipment repair. In October of 1999, Gary joined Gila County Facilities Management Department where his vast knowledge and skills have made a significant contribution to the county as well as their department.

